Inculcating openness at UCT: The OpenUCT Initiative

Creative Commons Africa Summit

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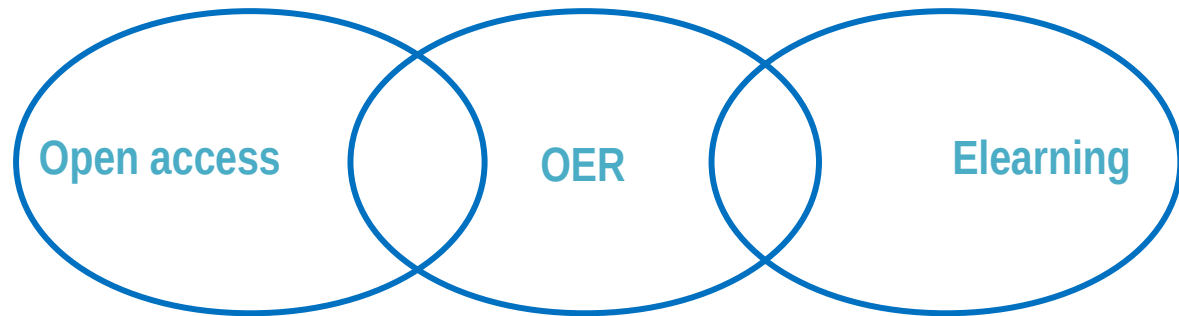**Presented by Kelsey Wiens**

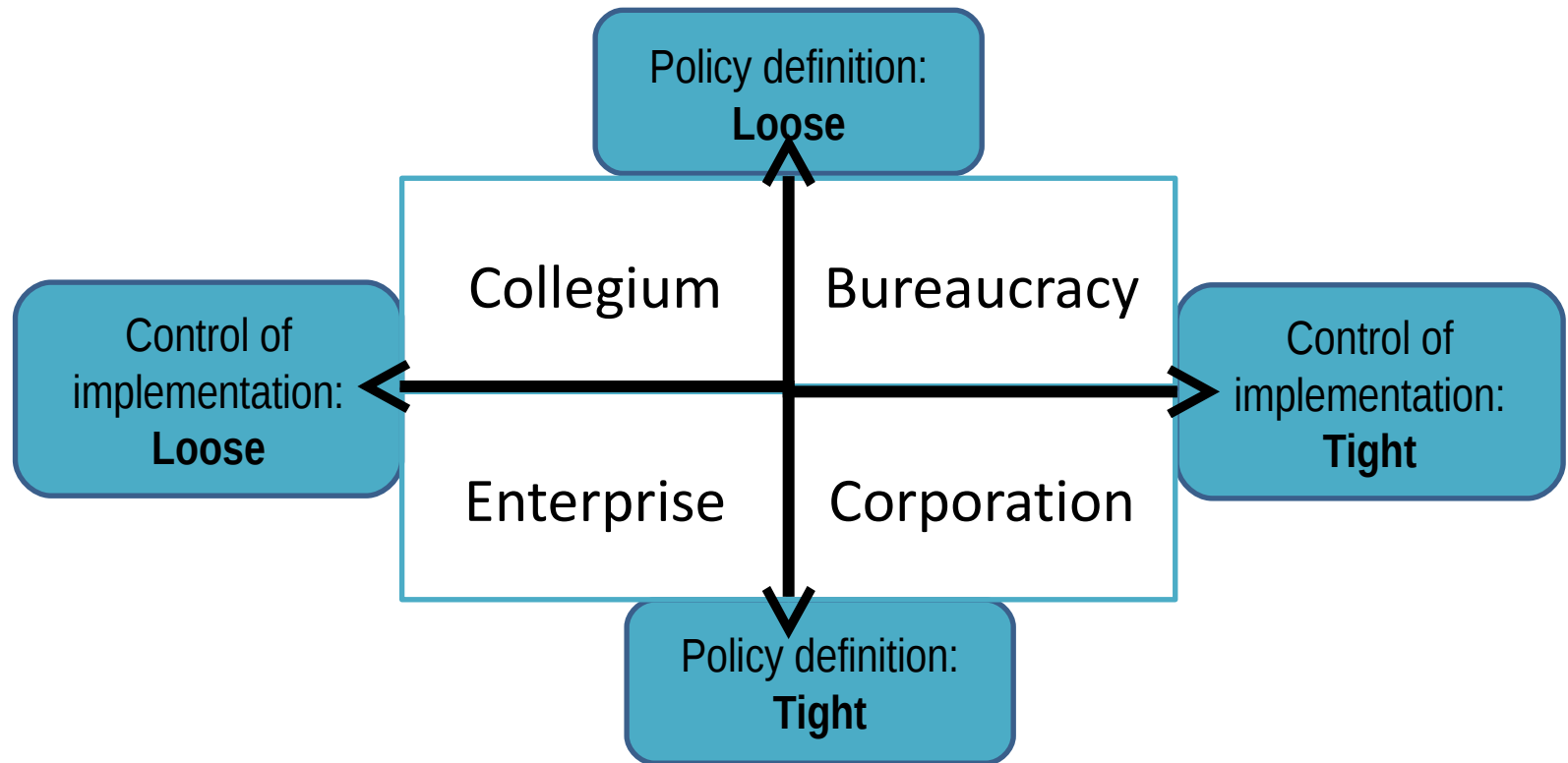**Kelsey.Wiens@uct.ac.za**
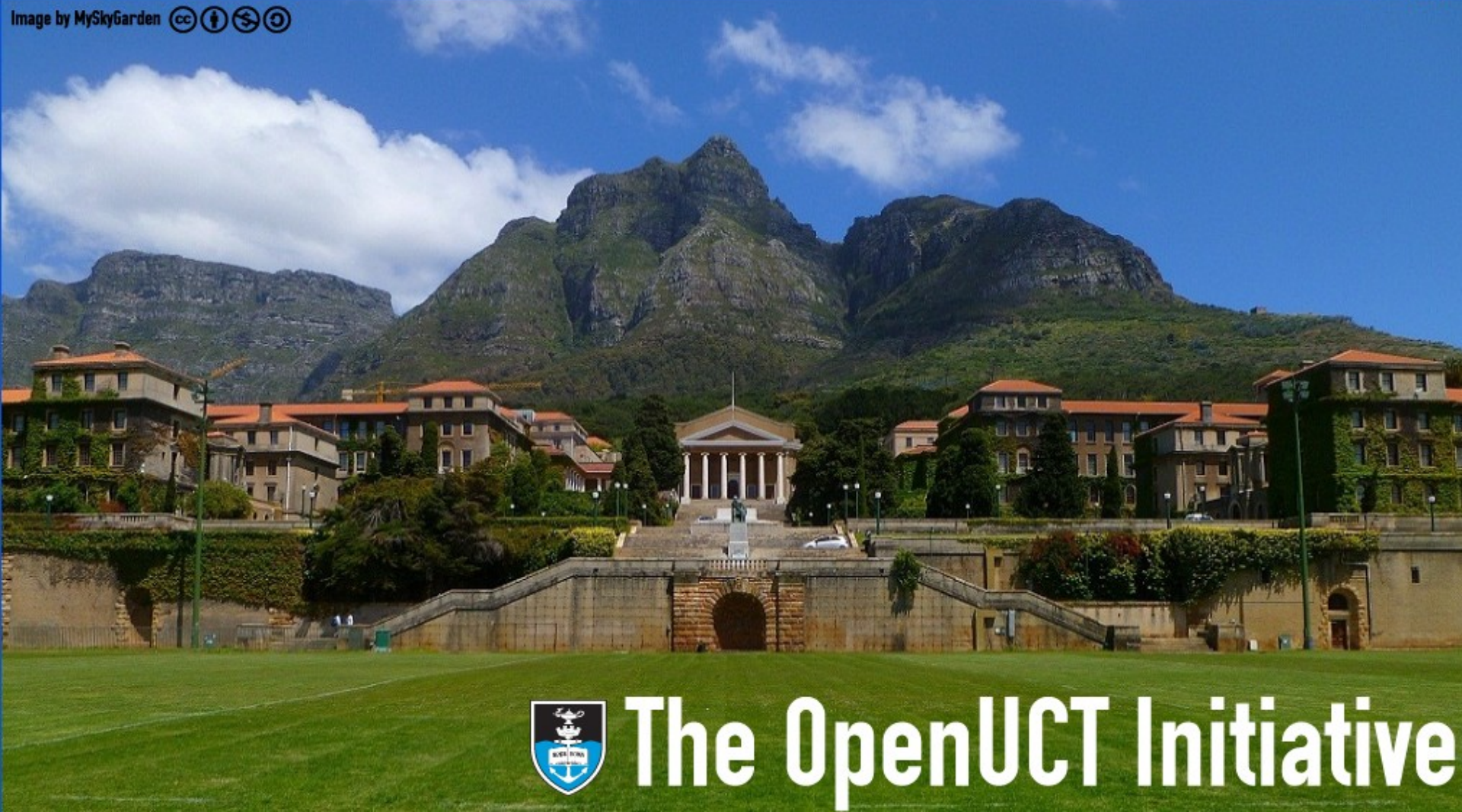
The OpenUCT Initiative

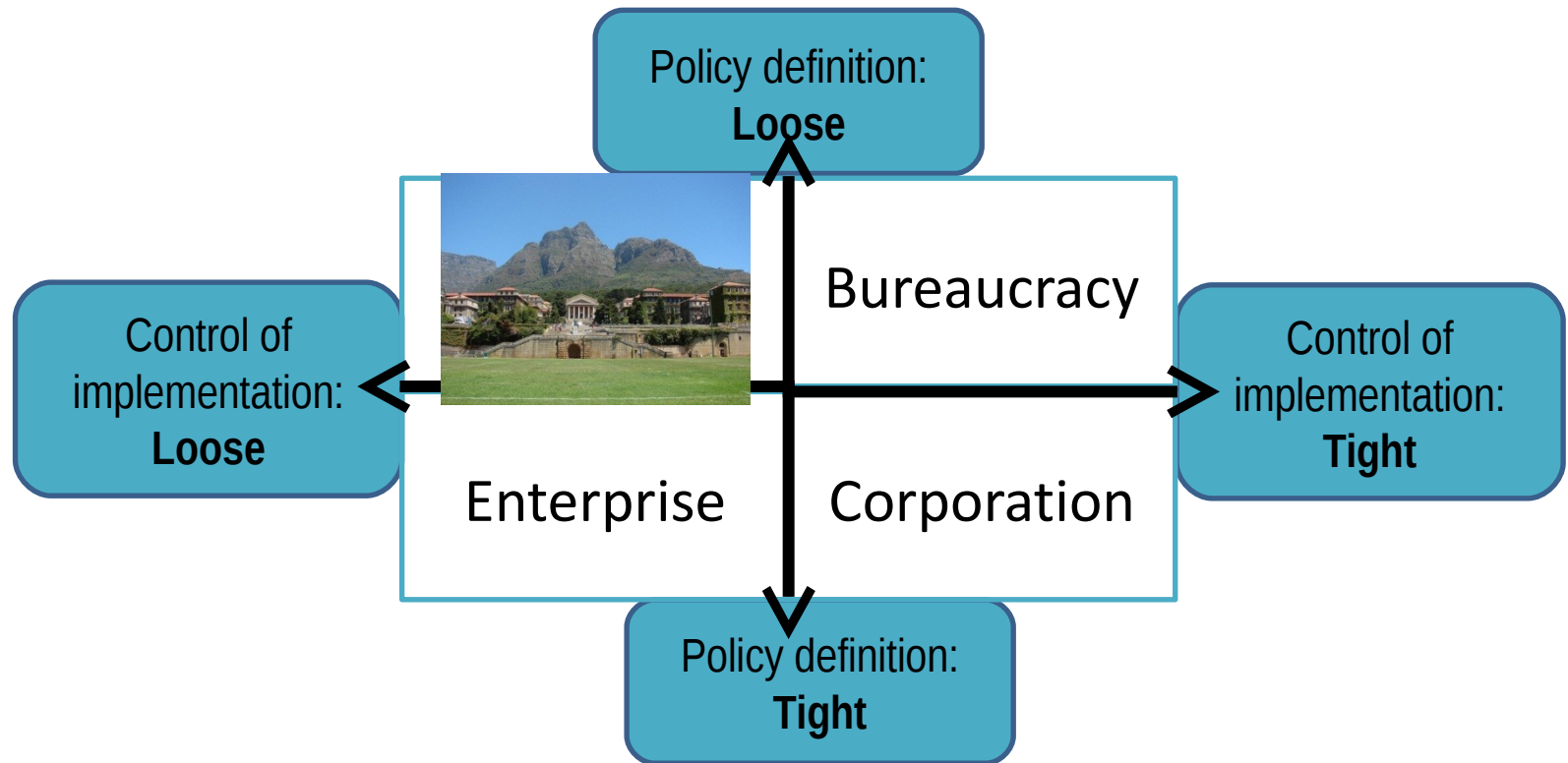# Some premises

- OERs overlap with Open access and Elearning

- OER part of a broader open movement

- Innovation usually starts with soft funding (external & internal)

Institutional cultural types

Policy definition: **Loose**

Control of implementation: **Loose**

Collegium | Bureaucracy

Enterprise | Corporation

Control of implementation: **Tight**

Policy definition: **Tight**

McNay, I. (1995). From collegial academy to corporate enterprise: The changing cultures of universities.

Institutional cultural types

The collegium type

- Characterised by
    - loose institutional policy definition
    - informal networks and decision arenas
    - and innovation at the level of the individual or
    - department. (McNay 1995)
- The organisational response
    - 'laissez faire', few targeted policies or processes (Rossiter, 2007).
    - Core value of collegium is freedom

University of Cape Town

- Oldest South African university

    - Top ranked African university

    - QS World University Rankings

    - The Times Higher Education World University Rankings

    - Academic Ranking of World Universities

- Medium sized

    - +/- 25 000 students

    - 982 permanent academics (of 5 442 total staff)

Prestigious research university

- 5 Nobel Laureates

- Booker Prize winner

- Numerous internationally recognised research initiatives

  - Africa Earth Observatory Network (AEON

  - The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics is an international centre for research in the fields of cosmology and topology.

  The Department of Physics is home to the

Teaching at UCT

- Residential

- Face to face

- Almost no distance ed

- Not set up for "non-traditional" courses

- Funding subsidy for headcount & throughput (not curriculum or content)

- Centre for Higher Educational Development active, strong academic development

Open agenda at UCT: projects

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

Scholar ⇄ Community

Opening Scholarship

OER UCT
Sharing Educational Resources

UCT KNOWLEDGE CO-OP

Health OER Project

The OpenUCT Initiative

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Our approach to
the openness agenda

in the light of UCT's culture

Strategic approaches

- Individual agency/ control

- Maximum flexibility

- Network / community building

- Enabling (not requiring)

- Champions at different levels

Collegium culture:
loose institutional policy definition
informal networks and decision arenas
and innovation at the level of the individual or department.
(McNay 1995)

Historically

- Opportunities for open agenda in the eLearning space (CHED)(rather than OA)

  – Contributed to change strategy

- No institutional repository

Multiplicity

- **Multiple** strategies

- Many small sites of innovation and activity, aiming for **agglomeration** across the institution, to achieve critical mass

- Change at **all levels** of the university

- Develop networks and build **community**

Champions

- At senior level
  - DVC signs Cape Town Declaration (2008)
  - VC signs Berlin Declaration (2011)

UCT signs Cape Town Open Education Declaration

Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin Hall and other prominent members of academia gathered on 8 April to sign the Cape Town Open Education Declaration.

The declaration is a groundbreaking initiative that aims to promote open resources, technology and teaching practices in education. Drafted in January 2008, the declaration springs from a meeting convened by the Shuttleworth Foundation and the Open Society Institute in Cape Town in September 2007, attended by UCT's Eve Gray and Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams of the Centre for Educational Technology.

While informal sharing of resources takes place in South African universities, there is as yet no formal system for making local open-educational resources available.

Speaking at the signing, Hall said that the freedoms of the internet must be protected, or else knowledge will become a heavily-priced commodity.

"The commercialisation of intellectual property presents difficult challenges for a university," he said. "Universities thrive on making knowledge freely available and the Cape Town Open Education Declaration establishes important principles for ensuring that this happens."

Openness: Prof Martin Hall was one of those who signed the Cape Town Open Declaration, which aims to use the internet to make knowledge more freely available.
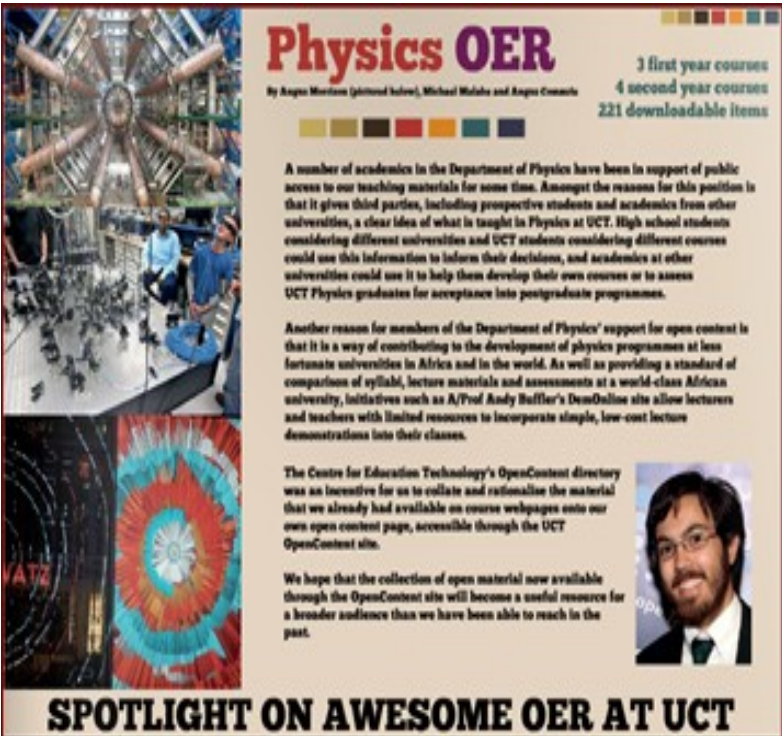
Champions

- Senior & middle level

- OER Health Sciences - Dean

Champions

- Bringing the work of "early adopters" above the radar

Champions & change

- In our experience of our cultural context

  - Senior level support symbolic

  - Vertical relationships do not cause change *per se*, only when actual projects in place (eg HS)

  - Champions work best in horizontal networked relationships, building communities of practice

- New roles and reconfigurations

  - The rise of the non-specialist "expert," (or

Incentives: small grants
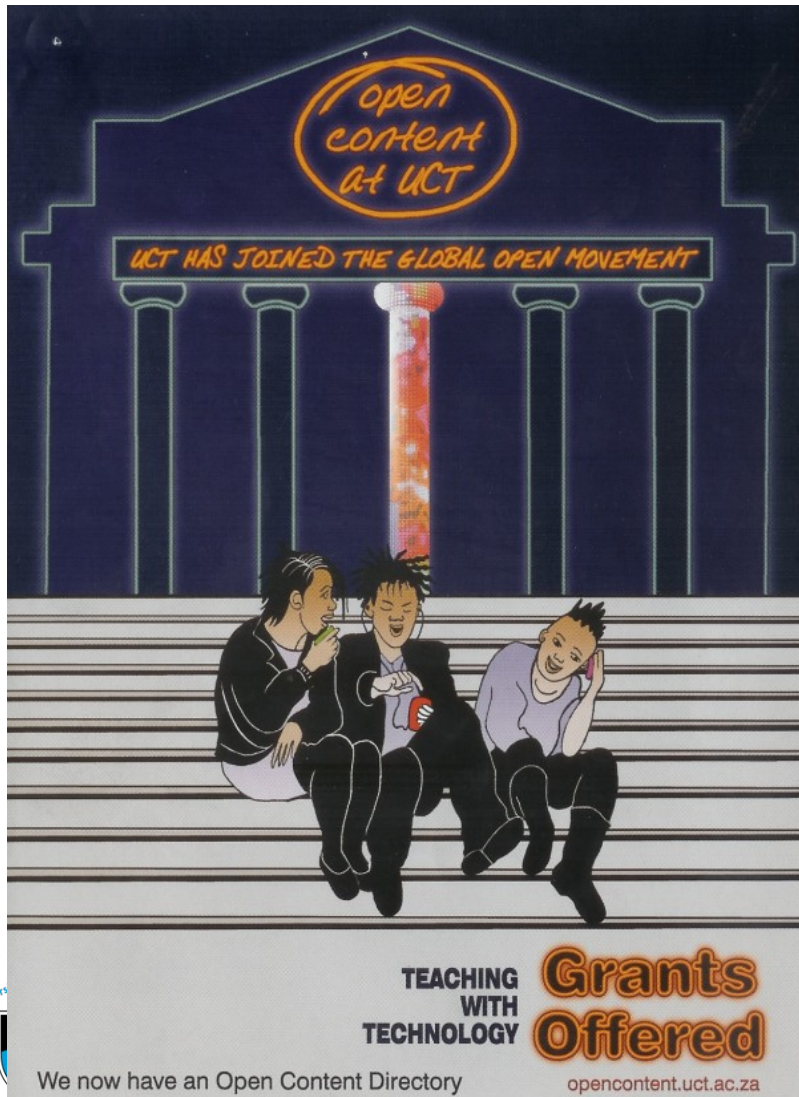
- 9 small grants in 2011

- £ 800 each

- Health Science, Engineering, Law, CHED, Science

- To create and/ or adapt OER

- From course level to smaller resources

Incentives: small grants

Join the global open movement and share your knowledge

The **OPENUCT** Initiative is offering grants of up to R10 000 for staff **AND STUDENTS** to develop or adapt teaching materials for sharing as Open Educational Resources in the OpenContent directory

Deadline: 20 April 2012 For more details go to: http://openuct.uct.ac.za/openuct-grants

Academic agency

- Decentralised uploading

  - Individual academics upload and maintain their resources directly

- Pride of authorship

  - Quality assurance with the individual

  - Quality assurance part of broader teaching and learning systems, not separate

- Minimal moderation

  Copyright compliance

Flexibility

- Granularisation of resources important

- Whole courses

- Single resources

  - Ebooks

  - Presentations

  - Podcasts

  - Lecture notes

  - Animations

Institutional Community

- IP Law Unit

- Knowledge Co-op

- Citizen Science projects in COL

- Enterprise Content Management Project

- Eresearch

- Library

- Communications Office

- Faculties

New IP policy

- Work enabled by new UCT IP Policy

  - Specifically addresses issues relating to the creation of OER resources and the licensing processes to be followed

  - Expressly states the support for publication of materials under Creative Commons licenses
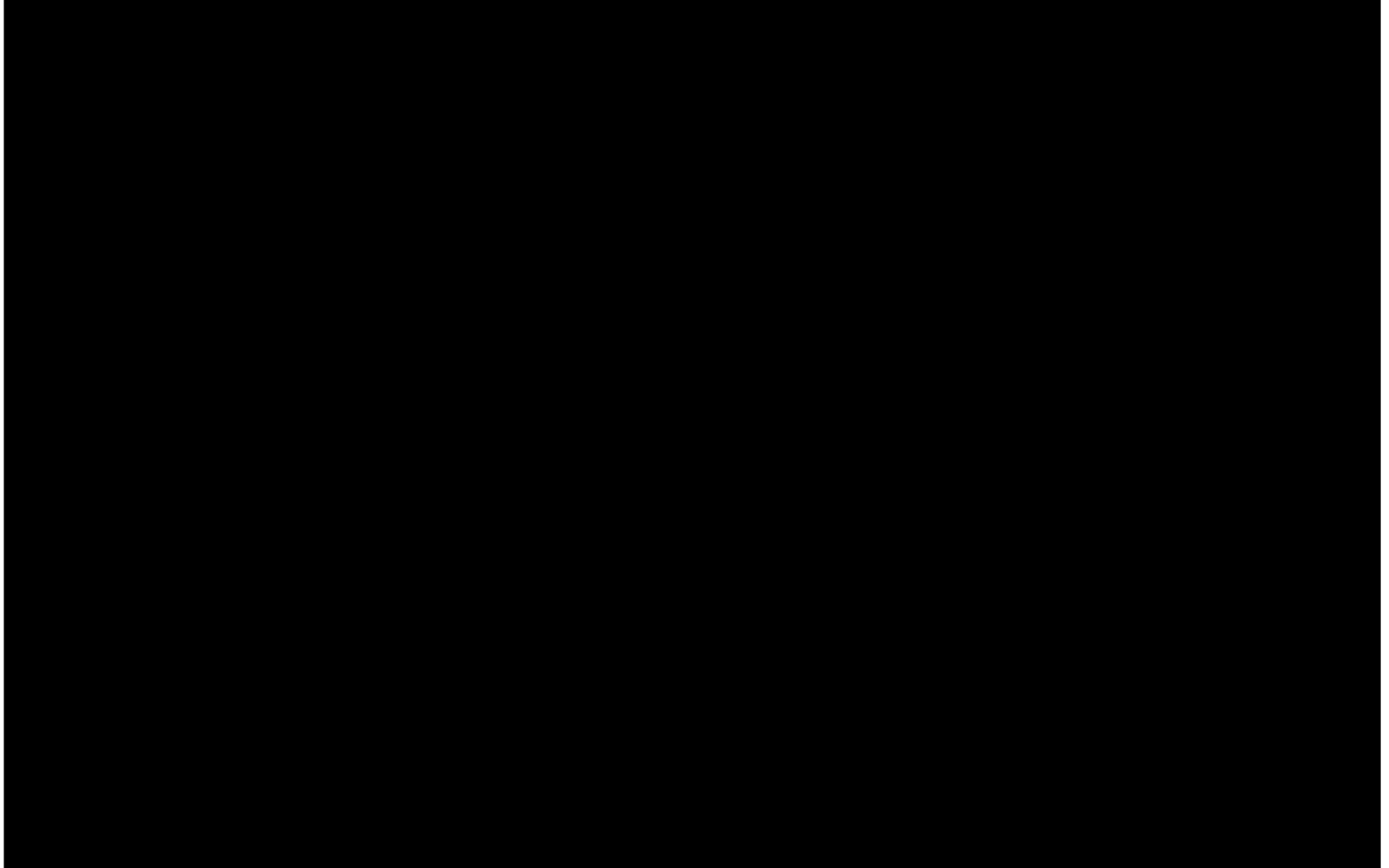
How we are doing

in terms of institutional participation
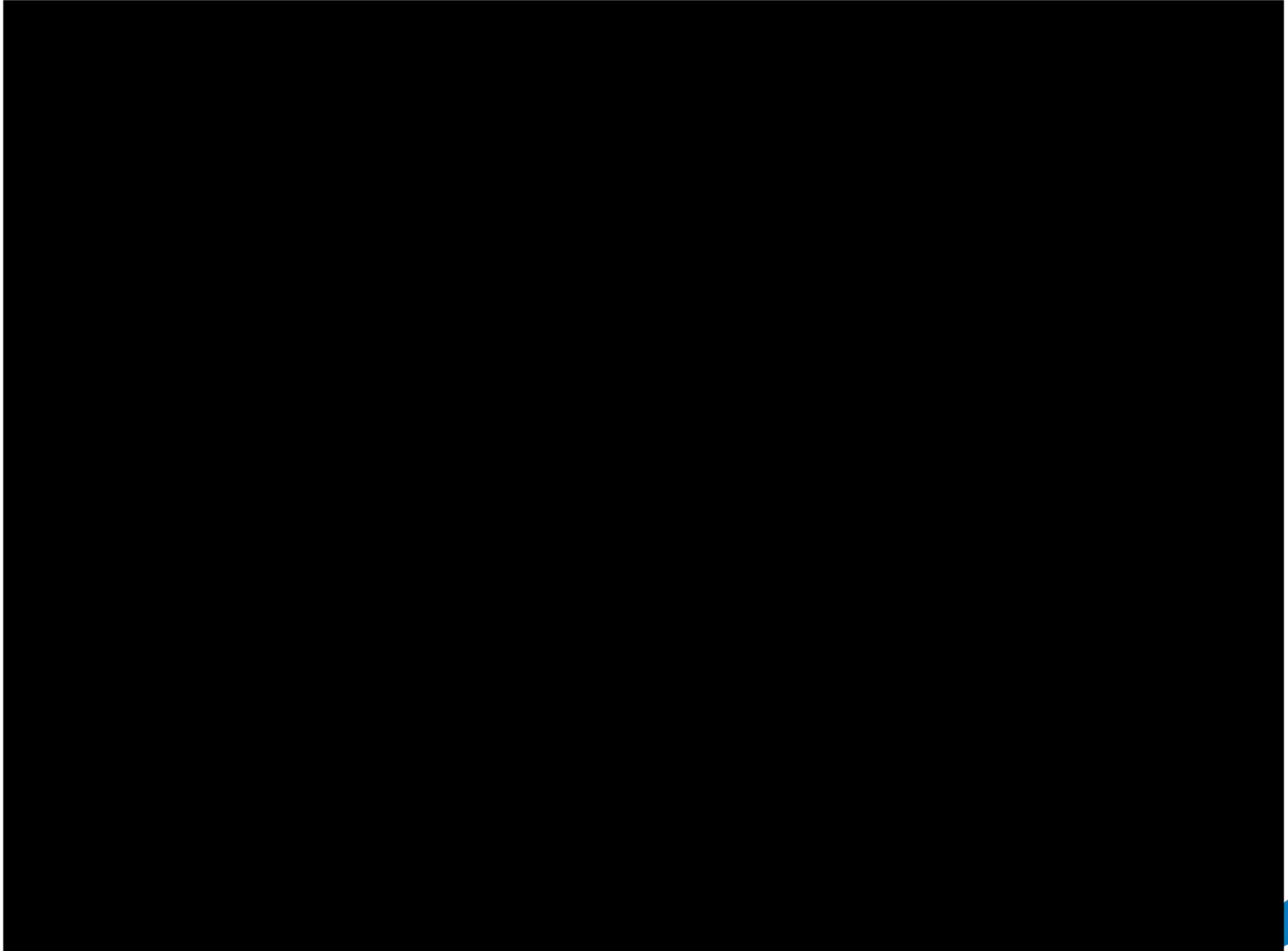
Growth to date
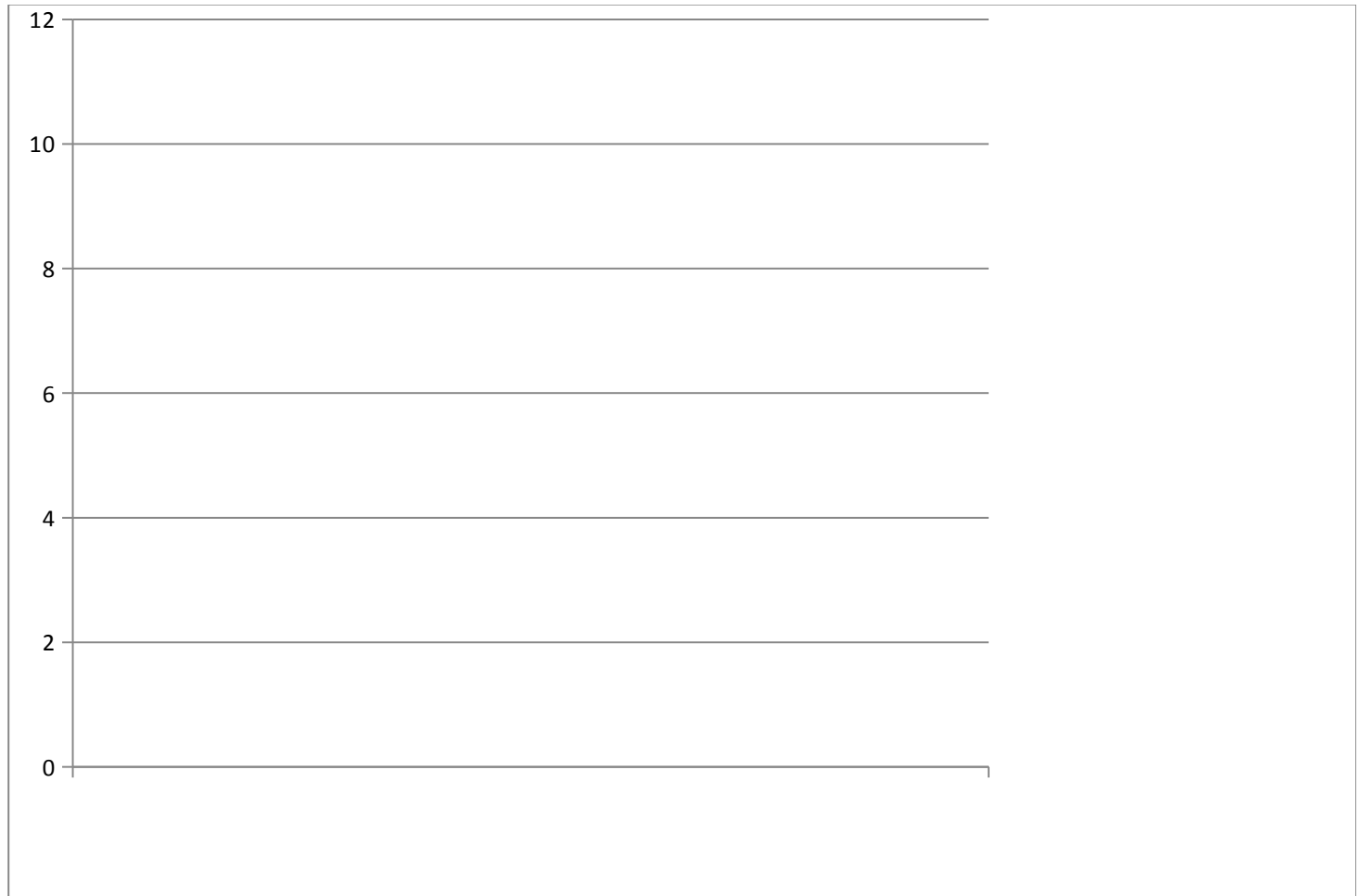
Faculty contributions

Faculty contributions February 2010- March 2012

Types of resources

Concluding comments

- A steady upswell rather than mainstream

- Integration of resourcing requirements into existing structures

- Acceptance of non-linear organic process

- Slow approach more likely to be sustainable & effective

- A research-based approach to inform strategy

References

- Czerniewicz, L and Brown, C (2009) study of the relationship between institutional policy, organisational culture and e-learning use in four South African universities in *Computers & Education* 53 (2009) 121–131

- McNay, I (1995) From collegial academy to corporate enterprise: The changing cultures of universities. In T. Schuller (Ed.), *The Changing University.* Buckingham: Society for Research into Higher Education and Open University

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